

## 16 SIMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND REFORMER

dan,<sup>1</sup> between the forest of that name and the great grain-producing plain of La Beauce — where Emile Zola laid the scene of his novel " La Terre " — she was of modest condition, her father having retired from business as a tradesman at Dourdan, and made his home in Paris, where he lived on a small income. But François Zola was no dowry hunter. He loved Emilie Aubert, and that sufficed. Her parents consenting to the match, everything was settled in a few weeks, the marriage taking place at the town hall of the First Arrondissement of Paris, on March 16, 1839.

Immediately afterwards the engineer carried his bride southward, and their honeymoon was spent amid the glowing scenery of Provence. For a twelvemonth they remained at Aix and Marseilles, Zola busying himself the while with his canal and dock plans; the first then beginning to take shape and the second approaching final rejection. At last, early in 1840, he repaired to Paris again, probably on account of the fortification scheme; and this time, accompanied as he was by his wife, who now expected to become a mother, and foreseeing that their sojourn in the capital might prove a long one, he did not, as previously, betake himself to any *maison meublée* but rented and furnished the fourth, floor

of a house in the Rue St. Joseph, a narrow lane-  
like street,  
running from the Rue Montmartre to the Rue  
du Sentier,  
at two minutes' walk from the Boulevards and  
within a  
stone's throw of the Bourse.

Parisian historians tell us that in mediaeval  
days this Rue  
St. Joseph was called the Rue du Temps  
Perdu, the Street  
of Lost Time, a name which none of them has  
been able to

<sup>1</sup> The birthplace also of the famous La Bruyere of the "  
Caractères," and of  
Francisque Sarcey, the eminent French critic.